(e) if so, the names of the countries and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Meteorological Satellite (METSAT), the recently launched dedicated satellite for meteorology, carries a Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR) designed to obtain images of the earth in the visible, thermal infrared and water vapour channels of the electromagnetic spectrum, enabling continuous, round-the-clock monitoring of the weather system. The Data Relay Transponder (DRT) in the satellite enables collection of meteorological data from remote and inaccessible areas over land. Thus, METSAT provides better data for weather forecasting.

(c) The achievements of the mission are as follows:

— The geo-synchronous launch capability of PSLV has been successfully demonstrated.

— For the first time, a dedicated meteorology satellite which provides more clear satellite images and data and also meteorological data from remote and inaccessible areas, round-the-clock for weather predictions, has been orbitted.

Out of many possible approaches, our investigation envisages a lunar mission using PSLV through geo-synchronous transfer orbit which has been clearly established in PSLV-C4.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Abandoned projects

3110. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as many as 97 projects in different sectors like power, fertilizer, petroleum, etc. worth Rs. 1,72,184 crore have been abandoned since October last year; and

(b) if so, the sector-wise details of these projects and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) According to the information compiled by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, as on 1.7.2002, there were 72 projects costing Rs. 17,846.37 crore, which had been frozen/abandoned/merged with other projects/transferred to private sector. The sector-wise details of these projects are available in the Quarterly Project Implementation Status Report for the period ending June, 2002, which has been placed in the Library of Parliament.

Completion of mega projects

3111. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to expedite completion of all mega projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any agency has been set up to monitor progress of various mega projects and fix responsibility for time and cost overruns and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) All major Central Sector Projects costing Rs. 100 crore and above, including mega projects costing Rs. 1000 crore and above, are monitored intensively with a view to expediting their completion and taking timely action for removal of implementation bottlenecks, if any.

The Standing Committees set up in the administrative Ministries are required to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns in projects costing Rs. 50 crore and above before the approval of the competent authority is secured for the revised cost estimates.

Loans for projects by financial institution

†3112. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.